

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BANGKOK 6579

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, PINS, MOPS, CB, ICRC, UN, CH

SUBJ: GKR OFFERS TO TURN POWER OVER TO GRUNK

CAMBODIA-B NO. 44 FROM AMBASSADOR DEAN

1. AT 1830 HOURS APRIL 16 I RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET IN PHNOM PENH. PURPOSE OF TELEPHONE CALL WAS TO INFORM DEPARTMENT OF STATEMENT LONG BORET GAVE TO ICRC REPRESENTATIVE PASQUIER AND ACTING RESIDENT UN REP SCHELLER IN PHNOM PENH EARLY IN AFTERNOON REGARDING GKR'S WILLINGNESS TO TRANSFER POWER TO THE OTHER SIDE AND ENTER INTO CEASE FIRE.

2. FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT IN FRENCH LONG BORET READ TO ME OVER TELEPHONE WHICH HE SAID ALREADY BEEN TRANSMITTED TO GRUNK IN PEKING.

BEGIN TEXT:

IN LINE WITH LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE KHMER PEOPLE, WHO ARDENTLY DESIRE AN END TO THE HOSTILITIES, EAGER TO AVOID THE LOSS OF MORE KHMER LIVES IN THE PRESENT FRATRICIDAL STUGGLE, AND AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THIS FRATRICIDAL STRUGGLE WILL SURELY LEAD TO THE DISAPPEARANCE AND DESTRUCTION

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OF THE KHMER RACE, THE KHMER GOVERNMENT:

(1) IS DETERMINED TO ACCEPT ANY REALISTIC SOLUTION WHICH CAN PUT AN END TO THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD AND LEAD TO A NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

(2) TOWARD THESE ENDS THE KHMER GOVERNMENT IS READY TO CONCLUDE WITH GRUNK, FUNK, AND FPALNK AN IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE.

(3) STANDS READY TO ACCEPT THE MODALITIES TO BE WORKED OUT BY COMMON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE KHMER PARTIES CONCERNED FOR A COMPLETE CESSATION OF THE HOSTILITIES.

(4) UNDERTAKES TO AVOID ALL ACTS OF REPRISAL AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS BECAUSE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES DURING THE HOSTILITIES AND GUARANTEES THEIR DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS, BUT ASKS OF THE GRUNK, FUNK, AND FPALNK TO ACCEPT A RECIPROCAL COMMITMENT.

(5) UNDERTAKES TO CARRY OUT TRANSFER OF POWER IMMEDIATELY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN PRESENTLY IN PHNOM PENH AS SOON AS THE REPLY FROM THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GRUNK, FUNK, AND FPALNK IS KNOWN.

DONE AT PHNOM PENH, 16 APRIL 1975. SAK SUTAKHAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLIC.
END TEXT.

3. ICRC REPRESENTATIVE IN PHNOM PENH, PASQUIER, AGREED TO ACCEPT THIS STATEMENT TO BE TRANSMITTED TO THE CHIEF OF GRUNK IN PEKING THROUGH THE CHANNEL OF THE SWISS GOVERNMENT. LONG BORET BELIEVES THAT THIS MESSAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN CONVEYED TO SIHANOUK BY THE TIME OF OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION.

4. THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF AFP ALSO HAS THE TEXT OF THE DECLARATION BUT HAS PROMISED TO KEEP IT CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL A REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

5. THE ACTING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNASSISTANCE BOARD, FERNAND SCHELLER, HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN TEXT OF THIS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE TRANSMISSION TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL IN NEW YORK.

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6. LONG BORET SAID THAT IF THE REPLY FROM THE OTHER SIDE IS AFFIRMATIVE, ONE QUESTION TO BE DISCUSSED IS THE SECURITY OF THE GKR PERSONALITIES AFTER THE CEASE FIRE. IN THIS CONNECTION, LONG BORET HAS ASKED THE ICRC TO MAKE AVAILABLE A SWISS PLANE TO PERMIT THOSE WHO ARE IN DANGER TO DEPART CAMBODIA AFTER THE TRANSFER OF POWER. ICRC REPRESENTATIVE PASQUIER SAID HIS ORGANIZATION HAS

A PLANE IN VIENTIANE WHICH COULD BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE BUT SUCH A TRANSACTION WOULD FIRST REQUIRE AGREEMENT BY THE OTHER SIDE.

7. AT THE END OF CONVERSATION WITH ME, LONG BORET ASKED WHETHER I COULD SEND IN TWO HELICOPTERS TOMORROW TO EXTRACT HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND THE DEPENDENTS OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE TOMORROW. I REPLIED THAT THEY HAD HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DEPART WITH US LAST SATURDAY AND I WAS PERSONALLY DOUBTFUL THAT USG WOULD SEND IN HELICOPTERS UNDER THE PRESENT CONDITIONS TO EXTRACT PEOPLE FROM PHNOM PENH. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, A CEASE FIRE AND TRANSFER OF POWER HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED AND TRANSPORTATION MIGHT BE NEEDED AT THAT POINT TO FLY OUT DEPENDENTS OF KHMERS, AND THE KHMERS OF THE OTHER SIDE AGREED TO ENTRY OF U.S. AIRCRAFT, WE COULD EXPLORE THE MATTER FURTHER.

8. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THIS TELEPHONE CALL WAS TO INFORM DEPARTMENT OF GKR'S LATEST MOVE AND LONG BORET ASKED THAT UM SIM ALSO BE ADVISED OF LATEST DEVELOPMENT. IF WE NEED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH LONG BORET AGAIN, HE SAID WE SHOULD USE THE EXISTING TELEPHONE LINE INTO THE KHMER NAVY HEADQUARTERS (ADMIRAL SARENDY'S OFFICE) WHICH WAS SITE FROM WHERE HE HAD PLACED TELEPHONE CALL TO ME.
MASTERS

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NNN

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